



Eye on Influenza

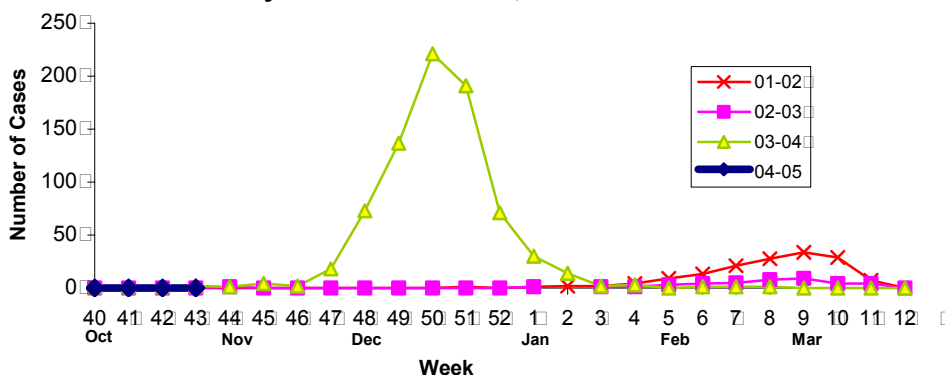
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Orange County Health Care Agency, Epidemiology & Assessment, 1719 W. 17th St. Santa Ana, CA 92706, (714) 834-8180

Welcome to the first edition of *Eye on Influenza*. This weekly flyer will update you on influenza and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity in Orange County (OC) during the flu season (October – May). This report includes information through 10/30/04 (CDC Disease Week 43).

- No cases of influenza have been reported to OC Public Health for the 2004-2005 season.
- LA and San Diego County each reported 1 case of influenza type B this week.
- Remind patients, family, and friends: Reduce your risk of spreading or contracting flu this season by covering your mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, washing your hands often, and staying home when sick.
- Limited amounts of vaccine are available for high-risk persons at specific county-sponsored clinics through November 15. For locations, see <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/public/flu/locations.htm>
- For information about the use of antivirals for treatment and prophylaxis of influenza, see <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/treatment/0405antiviralguide.htm>

**Orange County Weekly Influenza Cases Reported
by Week and Season, 2001-2004***



Orange County Surveillance*

- Lab-confirmed cases are reported to OC Epidemiology from hospitals, labs and physicians during the flu season.
- Last year, OC reported 775 confirmed cases of flu. The season peaked during the week ending December 20, 2003.
- This year, we will also be reporting on outpatient ILI visits from sentinel providers located throughout our county.

**Note:* The number of confirmed cases does NOT correspond to the total number of cases in OC as not all labs participate, the surveillance programs are not population based, and testing may be influenced by many factors such as public interest.

Health care providers and labs can aid in monitoring flu by participating in OC flu surveillance. For more information, contact OC Epidemiology at (714) 834-8180.

California and USA

- Statewide, flu is at baseline for this time of year.
- San Francisco and San Mateo Counties have reported outbreaks of flu A and B, respectively, in long-term care facilities.
- Flu in the US is at baseline levels with 17 states and Puerto Rico reporting sporadic activity for week 42.

Additional Information:

General: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

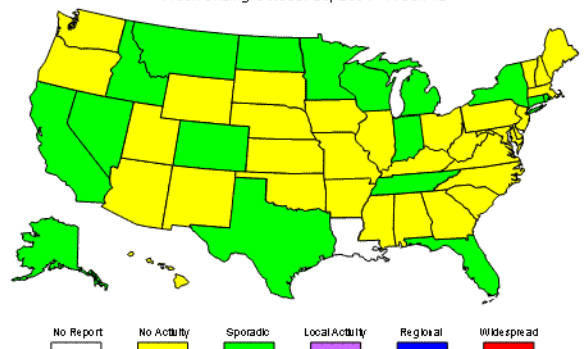
OC: www.ochealthinfo.com/epi/flu/index.htm

California: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/VRDL/html/FLU/Flutable04-05.htm

USA: www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/



**Weekly Influenza Activity Estimates Reported
by State & Territorial Epidemiologists**
Week ending October 23, 2004 - Week 42



If you have any comments about the flyer, contact Jacqueline Rurangirwa or Kirsten Melbye at (714) 834-8180. To receive this newsletter by email, please contact us at epi@ochca.com.